

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to more clearly define the invention as disclosed in the written description. In particular, claims 14-18 have been cancelled.

The Examiner has rejected claims 14-18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the article "High-Strength Maraging Steels" by Perkash in view of U.S. Patent 5,244,375 to Laurence et al. Applicants acknowledge that the Examiner has allowed claims 1, 3, 4, 8-12 and 19-28.

Applicants believe that the above changes render the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection moot.

Applicants believe that this application, containing claims 1, 3, 4, 8-12 and 19-28, is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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